A FEMINISTIC INTROSPECTION FOR SELF IN SELECT NOVELS OF ANITA NAIR AND SHASHI DESHPANDE

SYNOPSIS

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Introduction

The feminist movement in India has brought about a significant change in the country's social, cultural, and political landscape. With the gradual progression of the feminist movement, Indian women have started to voice their opinions and express their individual identities. Novels written by Indian women writers like Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande reflect the changing dynamics of Indian women and their evolving sense of self. This research proposal aims to analyze the selected novels of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande to explore the ways in which they portray the concept of self in feminist terms.

The feminist movement in India emerged during the 1970s and 1980s, and since then, it has played a vital role in empowering Indian women. The movement aimed to challenge the patriarchal system and advocate for women's rights, equality, and freedom. Indian women now have more access to political representation, career prospects, and education as a result of the feminist movement. Nevertheless, despite these improvements, Indian women still experience numerous types of oppression, abuse, and prejudice.

The changing dynamics of Indian women and their developing sense of self have been greatly reflected in novels produced by Indian women writers. These novels offer insights into the lives of Indian women and the struggles they face in asserting their identities in a patriarchal society. Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande are two prominent Indian women writers who have explored the experiences of Indian women in their works. Their novels provide an in-depth analysis of the ways in which women navigate their identities and challenge societal norms.

The selected novels for analysis are *Ladies Coupe* published in 2001 and *Mistress* published in 2005 by Anita Nair, and *That Long Silence* published in 1998 and *The Binding Vine* published in 1992 by Shashi Deshpande. These novels portray the experiences of Indian women who are struggling to assert their identities in a patriarchal society. The female protagonists in these novels navigate their identities through aprocess of self-discovery and introspection. The novels also explore the ways in which societal norms and traditional gender roles constrain women's lives.

The research proposal aims to analyze the selected novels of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande to explore the ways in which they portray the concept of self in feminist terms. The research questions focus on how the novels reflect the changing dynamics of Indian women and their evolving sense of self, how the female protagonists assert their identities

in a patriarchal society, and how they challenge and subvert traditional gender roles and societal norms.

The research will use a qualitative research methodology, specifically textual analysis, and is expected to yield valuable insights into the ways in which Indian women writers are portraying the experiences of women in a patriarchal society. The research findings will contribute to the broader field of feminist literary criticism and provide a deeper understanding of the experiences of Indian women in a changing society.

The feminist movement in India has achieved significant milestones since its inception during the 1970s and 1980s. Here are some of the key achievements of the feminist movement in India.

Firstly, increased education as on achievements of the feminist movement in India in which the feminist movement in India played a vital role in advocating for women's education. As a result, more women have gained access to education, including higher education. Women now have more employment possibilities and financial freedom as a result of this.

Female Rights is the second achievement in which the feminist movement has been crucial in promoting women's rights, notably those related to property rights, equal pay for equal labor, and reproductive freedom. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act were introduced in 2005 and 2013, respectively, as a result of these efforts. As the democratic representation**,** the feminist movement has also been active in calling for more women to hold political office. As a result, more women have won elections to state and federal legislatures as well as other public offices. There have been more women appointed to cabinet positions in the federal government in recent years. Then activism and awareness**,** In order to promote gender equality and increase public awareness of women's concerns, the feminist movement has been extremely influential. As a result, several organizations and advocacy groups dedicated to advancing women's rights and combating issues of gender-based violence and discrimination have emerged. The social, cultural, and political landscape of India has undergone substantial upheaval as a result of the feminist movement. To achieve gender equality and solve the persisting issues Indian women confront, there is still a long way to go.

Many ongoing challenges faced by Indian Women**,** despite the achievements of the feminist movement in India, women continue to face various ongoing challenges, including firstly, gender-based violence in which domestic abuse, sexual harassment, rape, and other

types of gender-based violence against women continue to be prevalent in India. A significant obstacle to women's empowerment and their capacity to fully engage in society is the prevalence of gender-based violence.

Secondly, Women in India still have restricted access to education despite advancements, especially in rural regions. This restricts their work and financial independence options and maintains gender-based disparities.

Thirdly, economic unevenness**,** in India, there is a substantial income gap between the sexes as well as few prospects for women to grow in their careers. This restricts their potential to become financially independent and perpetuates gender disparities.

Fourthly**,** political representation that is limited and women still have little political representation in India, even if there has been a rise in the number of women elected to public office, especially at higher levels of government. After this, traditional gender roles and societal norms continue to limit women's autonomy and restrict their ability to fully express their individual identities. These norms often reinforce patriarchal attitudes and perpetuate gender-based inequalities. Addressing these ongoing challenges faced by Indian women requires continued advocacy, legal reforms, and social and cultural change to promote gender equality and empower women.

Literature Review

The feminist movement in India has contributed to a significant shift in the social and cultural landscape of the country, particularly in the context of gender relations and women's empowerment. The literature on Indian feminist writing suggests that Indian women's writing reflects the changing dynamics of Indian women and their evolving sense of self. The novels by Indian women writers like Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande provide valuable insights into the complex interplay between gender, culture, and society in shaping the experiences of Indian women.

Anita Nair's novel *Ladies Coupe* published in 2001, she explores the themes of self-discovery and women's empowerment. The novel follows the journey of six women who meet on a train journey and share their stories of struggle and resilience. The protagonist, Akhila, is a middle-aged woman who has been trapped in a loveless marriage and has sacrificed her dreams for her family. Through her journey, Akhila rediscovers her identity and finds the courage to break free from the patriarchal norms that have restricted her life.

Nair's novel challenges traditional gender roles and highlights the importance of women's agency in shaping their own lives (Nair).

Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence* published in 1998 and *The Binding Vine* published in 1992 also explore the theme of women's self-discovery and empowerment. In *That Long Silence* published in 1998 the protagonist Jaya struggles to balance herroles as a wife, mother, and writer and confronts the patriarchal expectations that limither aspirations. In *The Binding Vine* published in 1992, Deshpande explores the complex dynamics of mother-daughter relationships and the challenges faced by women in patriarchal families. Deshpande's novels challenge traditional gender roles and highlights the importance of women's agency in shaping their own lives (Deshpande).

Rao's defines the feministic approach on "The Glass Ceiling: A Perspective of Women Working in Durban" published in 2007 in the *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* offers a valuable perspective on the challenges faced by women in the workplace. While not directly related to the novels of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande, this article provides insights into the broader societal context in which women navigate their roles and aspirations. Understanding the experiences of women in different settings, such as the workplace, adds to the understanding of gender dynamics and the societal constraints that the female characters in the novels may encounter (Rao 307-333).

Nazneen Khan's says in his study, *Feminist Concerns in Shashi Deshpande's The Binding Vine* 2005, published in Indian Literature, delves into the feminist themes present in Shashi Deshpande's novel. This analysis provides valuable insights into Deshpande's exploration of gender, power dynamics, and societal expectations in *The Binding Vine*. Khan's examination of the novel's characters and their struggles contributes to the understanding of feminist introspection and identity formation in Deshpande's work (Khan).

Usha Bande's expresses feminist ideas on *The Novels of Anita Desai: A Study in Character and Conflict* published in 1988 in which her study explores the representation of feminist ideas in-depth analysis of Anita Desai's novels with a specific focus on her characters and the conflicts they face. While the work is focused on Desai, it provides valuable insight into the evolution of female characters in Indian literature. This will aid in understanding the depth of character development and introspection in Nair's and Deshpande's novels (Bande).

Peter Barry's writes on feminism in Indian women's writing in his book *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* published in 1999 explored the essential resource for any literary analysis. Barry provides a thorough introduction to

various literary theories, including feminist theory. This work will provide the theoretical groundwork for analyzing the selected novels by Nair and Deshpande (Barry).

Kamla Bhasin and Nighat Said Khan's explore the feminism on *Some Questions on Feminism and its Relevance in South Asia* published in 1986 in the impressions in which that work provides an invaluable lens through which to view feminism in the South Asian context. It discusses the specific challenges faced by women in this region and the ways feminism manifests itself in response to these unique circumstances. This work will guide the understanding of feminism as it pertains to the female protagonists in the novels of Nair and Deshpande, as their struggles and self-introspection are inevitably shaped by the South Asian societal norms they navigate (Bhasin and Khan).

Wayne C. Booth's preface to *Rhetoric of Fiction* published in 1967 is a seminal work in the field of literary studies. Booth's exploration of the nuances of narrative voice and authorial intent can provide valuable insights into how the narratives of the selected novels can be interpreted. This could be particularly useful when analyzing how Nair and Deshpande use narrative techniques to portray the introspection of their female characters (Booth).

Mariam Brody's introduction to Mary Wollstonecraft's seminal feminist work, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* published in 1992, offers a historical overview of feminist thought. Wollstonecraft's advocacy for women's rights in the late 18th century was pioneering and continues to influence feminist discourse. Brody's introduction aids in understanding the historical underpinnings of feminist thought, which can provide crucial context when examining feminist introspection in the novels of Nair and Deshpande (Brody).

Elisabeth Bumiller's distinguishes Indian feminism on *May You Be The Mother of A Hundred Sons: A Journey Among the Women of India* published in 1991 is an exploration of women's lives in India, traversing through various strata of Indian society. Bumiller's work, while not directly linked to the fiction of Nair and Deshpande, provides a rich tapestry of Indian women's experiences. These real-life narratives can offer valuable comparative insights when examining the fictional portrayals of Indian women's introspection and selfhood in Nair's and Deshpande's novels (Bumiller).

L. Thara Bhai's tries to explores the issues on *Women's Studies in India* published in 2000 is a comprehensive exploration of women's experiences and gender issues in India. It provides in-depth academic and sociological perspectives, discussing various topics such as women's roles, rights, societal pressures, and achievements in India. This work provides

a valuable academic backdrop against which to view and analyze the novels of Nair and Deshpande. The societal norms and expectations described in Bhai's book help inform the understanding of the settings, characters, and conflicts in these novels (Bhai).

Bidulata Choudhury's explains feminism on *Women and Society in the Novels of Anita Desai* published in 1995 is a significant work focusing on the interplay between female characters and their societal context in Desai's novels. Although our focus is on Nair and Deshpande, the analysis of female characters in Desai's novels provides valuable comparative insights. This work aids in understanding how societal norms, pressures, and expectations are reflected in the introspective journeys of the female characters in Indian novels, thereby enriching the analysis of Nair's and Deshpande's works (Choudhury).

Sarah Caldwell's essay *Subverting the Fierce Goddess: Phoolan Devi and the Politics of Vengeance* appears in the book *Playing for Real: Hindu Role Models, Religion, and Gender,* edited by Jacqueline Suthren Hirst and Lynn Thomas published in 2004. Although the essay focuses on a different subject, it offers valuable insights into the intersection of religion, gender, and power dynamics in Indian society. The examination of Phoolan Devi's narrative provides a comparative lens through which to analyze the introspective journeys of female characters in the novels of Nair and Deshpande (Caldwell).

Aruna Asaf Ali's writes on feminism in India women's writing in her book *Resurgence of Indian Women* published in 1991 explores the evolving roles and experiences of Indian women in various spheres of society. This work provides a comprehensive view of the social, cultural, and political landscape that shapes women's lives in India. By examining the resurgence of women in Indian society, Ali's book offers valuable insights into the context within which the female protagonists in the selected novels by Nair and Deshpande navigate their journeys of self-introspection and identity formation (Ali).

G.S. Amur's preface in *The Legacy and Other Stories* published in 1978 also provides insights into the literary context and themes present in Shashi Deshpande's works. Although the focus of the book is not directly on Deshpande's novels, the preface offers valuable perspectives on Deshpande's writing style and the broader literary landscape within which her works are situated. This preface can provide contextual understanding for analyzing Deshpande's feminist concerns and the introspection of female characters in her novels (Amur).

The study conducted by **Mukta Atrey and Viney Kirpal's** titled book *Shashi Deshpande: A Feminist Study of Her Fiction* published in 1998 focused specifically on Deshpande's fiction from a feminist perspective. This comprehensive study offers a detailed analysis of

Deshpande's feminist concerns, character development, and the portrayal of women's experiences in her novels. Incorporating this source strengthens the examination of feminist introspection in Deshpande's works and enhances the understanding of her contributions to Indian literature (Atrey and Kirpal).

Jasbir Jain's work under the titled *Gendered Realities, Human Spaces: The Writing of Shashi Deshpande* published in 2003 is a critical study specifically focusing on the portrayal of women in Deshpande's works. Gupta's analysis of Deshpande's novels provides insights into the nuanced depiction of female experiences and realities within a patriarchal society. These insights will be instrumental in deepening the analysis of self-introspection in the works of Deshpande (Jain).

Manmohan K. Bhatnagar's expresses feminist themes on *Feminist English Literature* published in 2003 in the Indian writing in English in which his study explores the over arching perspective of feminist themes with in English literature. It provides a crucial framework for understanding and analyzing the feminist underpinnings of the works by Nair and Deshpande (Bhatnagar).

R.S. Pathak's defines the feministic approach on *The Fiction of Shashi Deshpande* published in 2001 offers a dedicated study of Deshpande's body of work, providing a deep analysis of her themes, narrative style, and character development. It can provide valuable insights for understanding Deshpande's portrayal of female characters, their introspection, and their struggles in a patriarchal society (Pathak).

Clara Nubile's says her work on *The Danger of Gender: Caste, Class and Gender in Contemporary Indian Women's Writing* published in 2003 expands the scope of analysis by exploring the intersectionality of caste, class, and gender in contemporary Indian women's writing, including works by Nair and Deshpande. Nubile's work is particularly significant in understanding the additional layers of complexity that these intersecting factors introduce to the experiences and introspection of the protagonists in the chosen novels (Nubile).

Rajinder Kumar Dhawan's explains that *Indian Women Novelists* published in 1991 offers a comprehensive review and analysis of the works of numerous Indian women writers, providing an in-depth understanding of the themes and stylistic devices used by these authors. The book includes critical essays on different authors and their works, offering a wider perspective on the tradition of Indian women's writing, which is beneficial for understanding the context of Nair's and Deshpande's novels (Dhawan).

Kamini and Neelam Raisinghani's focuses feminism on **"**Feminist Concerns in Shashi Deshpande's *The Binding Vine*" published in 2022 in the *International Journal of Innovations & Research Analysis* the research article provides a deep analysis of the feminist themes in one of Deshpande's most significant works. This analysis illuminates the complex dynamics of gender and societal expectations in Deshpande's works, which are central to the proposed study (Kamini and Raisinghani 112-116).

Neeru Tandon's writes on *Feminism: A Paradigm Shift - A Success Story of 50 Successful Indian Women* published in 2014 offers narratives of success and empowerment from a diverse range of Indian women. This work provides a rich counterpoint to the thematic exploration of female struggle in Nair's and Deshpande's novels. It offers an alternative perspective on the ability of Indian women to overcome societal barriers and assert their individual identities (Tandon).

Pier Paolo Piciucco's explained feminist consciousness on *A Companion to Indian Fiction in English* published in 2004 provides a comprehensive overview of Indian fiction in English, positioning the works of Nair and Deshpande within a larger literary tradition. It offers crucial insights into thematic trends, stylistic developments, and the socio-cultural contexts that have shaped Indian fiction in English (Piciucco).

Mayuri Kailas's studies that feminism on focuses feminism on "Feminist Writing with Special Reference to Anita Nair's Novel *Ladies Coupe*" published in 2019 in the *International Journal of Science and Research* in which her study explores a critical examination of the portrayal of marginalized women in Nair's work. This examination offers a deeper understanding of the struggles against societal norms and the quest for personal identity and freedom in Nair's *Ladies Coupe.* This perspective aligns with the proposed study's focus on self-introspection within the confines of a patriarchal society **(**Kailas 1807-1811).

Kanwar Dinesh Singh's research work in *Feminism and Post Feminism*: *The Context of Modern Indian Women Poets Writing in English***,** published in 2004 presents an overarching view of the feminist and post-feminist contexts within modern Indian women's literature. This analysis allows for a greater understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics and historical factors that influence and shape the writings of Nair and Deshpande. The ideas of feminism and post feminism as discussed by Sharma provide an essential lens through which to view and interpret the selected novels of Nair and Deshpande (Singh).

Manmohan K. Bhatnagar and M. Rajeshwar's expresses in his work *The Novels of Anita Desai: A Critical Study*, published in 2011 in which the study focuses on critical

examination of Anita Desai's novels. Although focused on Desai, this work is still relevant as it provides insights into the evolution and stylistic elements of Indian women's writing, thus helping to contextualize the narrative techniques employed by both Nair and Deshpande (Bhatnagar and Rajeshwar).

Another notable study by **Sarojini Sahoo's** titled *A Study of the Empowerment of Women in Shashi Deshpande's Novels* published in 2019 focused specifically on Shashi Deshpande's works. The research investigated the empowerment of women characters in Deshpande's novels and examined how they navigate social constraints, challenge gender norms, and strive for self-fulfillment. Sahoo's research illuminated the multifaceted depictions of women's lives and challenges in Deshpande's work (Sahoo).

An interview with Anita Desai published in *The Times of India* by **Dalmia's** *1979* provides direct insights into Desai's thoughts and perspectives on Indian literature and society. This primary source provides a deeper understanding of the zeitgeist that has influenced contemporary Indian women authors like Nair and Deshpande (Dalmia 13).

M. Ameen Nisha and D. Vezhaventhan's studies on "Political Empowerment and Participation of Women in India" published in 2015 in *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics* where this research focuses on the politics of representation in contemporary Indian women's fiction, analyzing how female authors employ feminist perspectives to challenge societal norms, promote inclusivity, and reshape notions of selfhood (Nisha and Vezhaventhan 4721-4736).

Radhikaben. M. Mistry's studies "Anita Nair's *Ladies coupe*: Women's Suffering, Emancipation and Self-Discovery" published in 2020 in the *International Journal of Research in all Subjects in Multi Languages*, where the selected study explores the construction of self and the role of gendered spaces in Anita Nair's novels, investigating how female characters navigate social environments to shape their identities and assert their agency (Mistry 41-44).

According to research on feminist writing in India, feminist literature may be a vital tool for advancing women's empowerment and gender equality. Women's writing may foster a more fair and inclusive society by challenging patriarchal conventions. Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande's works highlight feminism's efforts to advance women's empowerment and combat gender inequality.

The literature study emphasizes the value of feminist writing for advancing women's empowerment and gender equality. The chosen books by Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande add to the body of knowledge on Indian women's writing and feminist literature while

offering insightful perspectives on the developing sense of self of Indian women. These books' feminism may advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Indian society by deepening our awareness of the intricate interactions between culture, gender, and society that shape Indian women's lives.

Research Gap Identification

While existing studies have made significant contributions to the understanding of feminist themes and the concept of self in Indian women's literature, there are still some gaps that this research aims to address and limited focus on specific novels, previous studies have examined the works of various Indian women writers, including Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande, but there is a need for a more in-depth analysis of their selected novels.

This research will specifically focus on *Ladies Coupe* published in 2001 and *Mistress* published in 2005 by Anita Nair, and *That Long Silence* published in 1998 and *The Binding Vine* published in 1992 by Shashi Deshpande providing a comprehensive exploration of these specific texts and their feminist perspectives on self- identity. There will be comparative analysis, while individual studies have analyzed the works of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande separately, there is a research gap in conducting a comparative analysis of their novels.

This research will fill this gap by examining the similarities and differences in the portrayal of self-identity and women's empowerment in their respective works, offering a deeper understanding of their unique approaches to feminism in Indian literature. Contemporary relevance also consists that many existing studies on Indian women's writing and feminist literature were conducted a few years ago. This research aims to bridge the gap by providing a contemporary analysis of the selected novels, considering the evolving socio-cultural landscape and the current feminist discourse in India.

This will help in understanding the contemporary relevance and continued significance of these novels in portraying the concept of self in feminist terms. As per the intersectionality and diverse perspectives, while the feminist movement in India has been instrumental in addressing gender inequalities, there is a need to explore the intersectionality of identities and diverse experiences of women. This research will strive to incorporate an intersectional lens, considering aspects such as class, caste, religion, and regional differences, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by Indian women in shaping their self-identity.

By addressing these research gaps, this study aims to contribute to the existing scholarship on Indian women's writing and feminist literature, providing valuable insights into the evolving sense of self and the feminist perspectives presented in the selected novels of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande.

Based on the literature review and the research questions, the following hypothesis is proposed, the selected novels of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande portray the concept of self in feminist terms, highlighting thecomplex experiences of Indian women and their struggles to negotiate societal expectations while asserting their own identities and agency. Through their portrayal of female protagonists who challenge traditional gender roles, the novels demonstrate the potential for women's empowerment and the importance of women's agency in shaping their own lives.

Objectives

The main objective of this research is to conduct a feminist introspection of selected novels by Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande to explore the concept of self in feminist terms. To achieve this objective, the study aims to:

- Analyze the themes, characters, and narratives in the selected novels to understand how they portray the concept of self in feminist terms.
- Explore the ways in which the selected novels challenge traditional gender roles and promote women's empowerment.
- Identify the challenges faced by Indian women in their quest for self-identity and empowerment as portrayed in the selected novels.
- Analyze the contribution feminist writing has made to the cause of gender equality and the advancement of women in Indian society.
- Contribute to the body of knowledge already available on feminist literature and Indian women's writing, especially in light of Indian women's changing sense of self.

The study seeks to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment via feminist literature and to create a fuller knowledge of the intricate interactions between gender, culture, and society that shape the lives of Indian women.

To achieve the research objective, the following research questions will guide this study:

- How do the selected novels by Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande portray the concept of self in feminist terms?

- What challenges do the female characters face in their quest for self-identity and empowerment as portrayed in the selected novels?
- In what ways do the selected novels challenge traditional gender roles and promote women's empowerment?
- How does feminist literature contribute to promoting gender equality and empowering women in Indian society?

These research questions will guide the analysis of the selected novels and provide a framework for the feminist introspection of the concept of self in Indian women's literature.

Proposed Methodology

In this study, the chosen books by Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande will be examined using qualitative research approach. The qualitative method is the most appropriate one for this study because it provides for a detailed examination of the themes and ideas covered in the books and lets the researcher look into the specifics of the experiences of the female characters.

Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe* published in 2001 and *Mistress* published in 2005 by Anita Nair and *That Long Silence* published in 1998 and *The Binding Vine* published in 1992 by Shashi Deshpande are the chosen books for examination. These books were selected because they make important contributions to Indian feminist writing and deftly and intricately examine the topics of gender, identity, and women's liberation.

Close reading of the chosen books and the identification of themes and ideas connected to the representation of the self in feminist terms will be used to gather data for this study. The chosen books will be thematically examined as part of the data analysis to determine how women are portrayed in these works. The study will also follow the *MLA Handbook* (2021) 9th edition for the proposed methodology.

These novels were selected as they are representative of Indian feminist literature and arewidely read and critically acclaimed. They explore the themes of gender, identity, and self in feminist terms, making them ideal for the study's research objectives and questions. The study will use a qualitative approach, and the selected novels will be analyzed using content analysis. The researcher will extract relevant themes and concepts related to the portrayal of self in feminist terms and analyze them in detail. The analysis will be conducted using a feminist lens and will consider the intersectionality of gender, class, caste, and religion in the portrayal of self in Indian feminist literature.

Thesis Outline

The research will complete in six chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background and context of the feminism

1.2 Waves of feminism

- 1.2.1 First wave of feminism
- 1.2.2 Second wave of feminism
- 1.2.3 Third wave of feminism
- 1.2.4 Fourth wave of feminism

1.3 Types of feminism

- 1.3.1 Radical feminism
- 1.3.2 Socialist feminism
- 1.3.3 Cultural feminism
- 1.3.4 Liberal feminism
- 1.3.5 Black feminism

1.4 The Portrayal of self in feminist literature

1.5 Hypothesis

1.6 A brief sketch of Anita Nair

1.7 A brief sketch of Shashi Deshpande

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Previous studies on Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande

2.2 A feministic introspection for self in Anita Nair's *Ladies Coupe*

2.3 A feministic introspection for self in Anita Nair's *Mistress*

Chapter 3: Materials and Methods

3.1 A feministic introspection for self in Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence*

3.2 A feministic introspection for self in Shashi Deshpande's *The Binding Vine*

Chapter 4: Results and Discussion

4.1 Identification of themes and patterns related to the portrayal of self in feminist terms

4.2 Comparison of themes and patterns across novels

4.3 Implications of the Study for Indian feminist literature

4.4 Contribution of the Study to the broader field of gender studies

Chapter 5: Summary and Conclusion

5.1 Conclusions and Implications of the Study

5.2 Limitations, Suggestions and future research directions

Chapter 6: References

This chapter will be following MLA 9th edition for in text citation and references.

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CERTIFICATE
(SYNOPSIS APPROVAL CERTIFICATE)

This is to certify that the Synopsis for Ph.D. Thesis titled, **"A FeministicIntrospection for Self in Select Novels of Anita Nair and Shashi Deshpande"**, submitted by **Ms. Amita Rani** to the Career Point University, Hamirpur (H.P.), India in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** in the Division of Language, Journalism and Social Sciences, School of Management and Liberal Arts has been approved by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) after an Oral Examination of the student on dated17th June 2023.

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